



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

May 20, 2010

Charles R. Hoppin, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Katherine Hart, Chair  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Dear Chairs Hoppin and Hart:

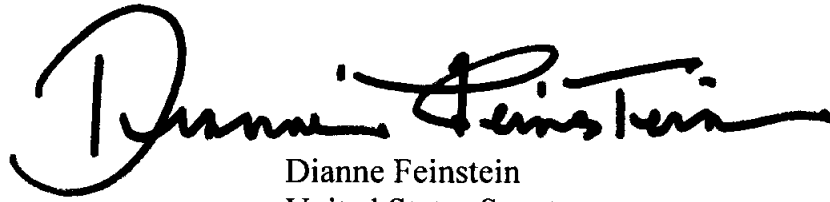
I am writing to again request that the State Water Resources Control Board and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board take action to address ammonia contamination affecting endangered fish species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Two recently released studies suggest that reduction of the discharge is necessary to help restore the Delta ecosystem. A study released in February indicates that current ammonia discharge limits may not be sufficiently protective for Delta smelt, and Dr. Glibert of the University of Maryland concludes that, without reductions in discharge or similar action, recovery of the species "is unlikely at best."

It is my understanding the Regional Board is in the process of considering the permit renewal for discharges from the Sacramento district, which has been renewed each year without substantive review since the underlying permit expired in 2005. As you know, the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District facility is the single largest source of wastewater being discharged into the Delta. I have been informed that the District is considering steps to reduce its discharge, and your completion of the permit renewal process will ensure that it has full knowledge of its obligations as it proceeds.

I respectfully request that you complete the review of the discharge as soon as possible, and work with the District to evaluate and implement means to appropriately reduce or eliminate its ammonia discharges. This review is critical to achieving the coequal goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability for the Delta and all of California.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dianne" written in a large, looping script, and the last name "Feinstein" written in a more compact, cursive style.

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

DF:lr